

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

Ft. Stewart environment a continuing heritage

Randy Powell-Jones
Fort Stewart Environmental Div.

Chuck Berry once said, "Rock's so good to me. Rock is my child and my grandfather."

You and I are not icons of Rock and Roll fame but we can take Chuck Berry's words and retool them into a better of understanding ourselves and our needs. Berry is saying that caring for our experiences allows us to give back to that which has been given to us. What we are doing here in our homes and work and lives is very important to not only us but our nation and world. We must not only appreciate what is given to us in these times but understand how we must give back to the future!

We are a family of this place, this home, the "Rock of the Marne," Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. Our "grandfather" is Audie Murphy. Our children go to Brittin and Diamond Elementary school today and the children of tomorrow will carry on as the Soldiers of the 3ID of tomorrow. The United States Army has long recognized that our mission is only accomplished because America entrusts us with its most precious resources – its sons and daughters. It is our obligation to ensure that our Soldiers today – and the Soldiers of the future – have the land, water, and air resources they need to train; and a healthy environment in which to live.

The new Army Strategy for the Environment: Sustain the Mission – Secure the Future establishes a long-range vision that enables the Army to meet its mission today and into the future. Sustainability is the ROCK solid foundation for this strategy and a paradigm that focuses our thinking to address both present and

future needs. That's why Fort Stewart/HAAF have chosen the ROCK as our Environmental Policy. It's the letters of this word that embody what Fort Stewart/HAAF and our sustainability partners focus on as we strive to meet our goals and –

- To conserve our Resources,.
- Optimize the balance between mission requirements, the environment, well-being of our Soldiers, their families, and our communities.
- Maintain Compliance with environmental regulations.
- And, Keep Improving!

Another Rock and Roll legend wrote, "I Rock therefore I am." At Fort Stewart we are an "Army of One" but we are also a family of the many who live, train and work here; a family that changes with every moment but our bond is this land, our home and the 3ID. We are the result of our past victories and the daily triumphs of those troops who fight for us this day. We are called now to achieve the victories of battles not yet fought.

We shall support Soldiers today and those who will become the Soldiers of tomorrow with the resources that we sustain for generations to come. Alone, "I ROCK therefore I am." Together we ROCK and the future therefore, will be secured!



Marne Voices

The **Frontline**
Readers respond to the question:

What's one thing you would like to change about Fort Stewart?

I wish there were more recreational areas and activities for Soldiers and dependents to do.

Staff Sgt. Thomas Watson
D Btry 1/39 FA



I wish people could PCS to another stateside duty station without having to be here for over 3 years.

Specialist Aiashia Garcia
D Btry 1/39 FA

Service to the serviceman — ‘America Supports You’



Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
Elaine Rogers, president of the USO of Metropolitan Washington, speaks during a ceremony for the five-year anniversary of the USO Gateway Lounge at Baltimore Washington International Airport on May 24. During the ceremony Rogers announced that the USO would be joining DoD's America Supports You program.

Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
American Forces Press Service

BALTIMORE WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, Md. — One of the military's largest support organizations joined the Defense Department's "America Supports You" program today during a ceremony here.

Today's observance also celebrated the five-year anniversary of the United Service Organizations International Gateway Lounge at BWI. America Supports You is a DoD program to promote support for American servicemembers at war.

"We're very excited about partnering with America Supports You, because one of the things that we want to do is to be able to show to our military personnel that there are so many people out there supporting them," said Elaine Rogers, president of the USO of Metropolitan Washington. "Whether it is the volunteer at the BWI airport USO or the corporate contributor who is really saying, 'We support you; we want to do whatever we can to make your life little bit easier.'

"That's what today is about, to let the service personnel and their families know ... that America is supporting them."

Allison Barber, deputy assistant secretary of defense for internal communication and public liaison, relayed a personal message from Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld thanking the USO for its support.

"There are only so many things the Defense Department can do," she said. "And there are so many things that we have to rely on the American people to help us do. And that's what you (USO) do everyday."

During the ceremony, officials honored the countless USO volunteers who Rogers said have helped make the USO lounge here a success. She noted that about 300,000 servicemembers have passed through the center since it opened.

USO volunteers Coast Guard veteran Charlie Fink and his wife, Bina, have been volunteering at the center for more than a year. They have a son currently serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom as an Air Force C-130 pilot, and they offered their services because they wanted to support the troops.

"It's all about putting your arms around the kids and saying, 'Thank you,'" added Bina. "That goes for the women as well as the men. I'm really impressed with our women in the military."

Army Command Sgts. Maj. Elvis Irby, garrison sergeant major for Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and Esmond Bakker, garrison sergeant major for Fort George G. Meade, Md., two soldiers with over 40 years of service between them, said the USO has always been there to support the troops.

"The USO is great thing; it's one of the cornerstones of support for our soldiers and families," Irby said.

I wish Fort Stewart would speed up the legal process so that legal issues would go faster.

Private James Barbee
Detachment 3, 3 Signal Co.



I wish Fort Stewart was closer to a real city with more activities for single Soldiers.

Private First Class Alania Stead
Detachment 3, 3 Signal Co.

Fort Stewart needs a better family support system, and more knowledge about what's happening in forward deployed areas.

Specialist Moina Tucker
Victory Chapel Chaplain's Assistant



Legal Notices

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **PFC KENNETH ZEIGLER**, Bravo Co. 1/64 AR BN, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact 2LT Scott Elliott, HQ, 1/64 AR BN, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-8665/7730. (2)

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **SGT CHARLES C. GILLICAN**, 1/118 FA, 48th BCT, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact CPT John McKenna, HQ's 48th Brigade Combat Team, Bld. 9601 Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-9615. (1)

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **SGT KENYA A. PARKER**, HHSC, STB, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact 1LT Leigh Carlton,

HHOC, STB, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-9649/5590. (3)

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Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **SGT ANDREW R. JODON**, E Co. 3-69 AR, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact 1LT Daniel Presutti, D Battery, 1-41 FA, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-1369 or 912-272-7377. (2)



I would like to see the eye-sores and rundown buildings on post renovated. The hospital also needs bigger and better facilities.

Chaplain (Major) David Dail
Victory Chapel

Voice your opinion!
Write a letter to the editor!
Send to:
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Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314-4941
or fax it to 912-767-9366.

The Frontline

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© 2005
MILITARY NEWS: 767-3440
ADVERTISING: (912) 368-0526
THE Frontline OFFICE: 767-8072

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Affairs Office, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314-5000. All editorial content of the Frontline newspaper is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Public Affairs Office of Fort Stewart, Georgia and the 3d Infantry Division and is printed by Morris Newspaper Corporation of Hinesville, Inc., a private firm in no

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way connected with the Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with Fort Stewart, Georgia. The civilian printer is responsible for commercial advertising. Subscription rates ar \$9 - 3 months, \$16 - six months and \$30 for 12 months. Rates are Third Class mail inside the continental United States.

Double take — Twins serve together in Iraq

Pfc. Dan Balda
4th BCT Public Affairs

BAGHDAD — It is not unusual for identical twins to play the same sports, go to the same college, or choose the same profession.

It is unusual, however, for those who choose the Army to be assigned to the same division, let alone the same brigade.

1st Lieutenants Deeon and Reeon Brown are assigned to the 4th BCT, 3rd Infantry Division. Deeon is a platoon leader with A Company, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor. Reeon is assigned to A Co., 3rd Bn., 7th Infantry Regiment.

The twins say there are some differences, though they're hard to spot. Deeon says he is "more stout" than his brother and Reeon says he is taller and has a gold tooth.

During their sophomore year of high school, they knew they wanted to join the Army. Initially they joined the Reserves, and enrolled in the Reserve Officers Training Corps at South Carolina State University. They chose the same major - computer science.

"The only time I get to use my major in the Army is when I type up a memorandum," Deeon said, the self-described "talker" of the two.

While in school, they played the standard twin jokes, going to each other's classes and taking each others tests.

While in ROTC they chose the same branch, Infantry, but knew the realities of the military and readied themselves to be split up for the first time in their lives.

"We didn't even ask to be stationed at the same place, it just worked out that way," Deeon said. "We found out while we were at (Officers Basic Course). We said, hey, alright, we're going to Stewart, to 3ID. We both knew that 3ID is the most lethal mechanized unit that the Army has. I knew it was a high-speed unit, and I wanted to be there."

Their experience in Iraq has not changed their perception.

"It's everything and more than I thought it was," Reeon said. "You've got Soldiers who look to you when they don't know what to do on the ground. It can be the difference between life and death, that's a lot of responsibility. It's scary sometimes."

Their parents are a little wary of having their two sons so close to the action at the same time but they realize this is what their sons have chosen to do with their lives and support them all the way.

Both men plan on staying in the Army until "we get kicked out." They plan on attending as many schools as possible when they redeploy.

This is the longest the brothers have been apart in their lives. Even though the situation is very different for them, a lot of their experiences remain the same.

"It's kind of nice to be in separate units for once just because we don't get mixed up as much," Deeon said. "But I'll still be walking around and see one of his Soldiers and he will ask me something about their unit, and I have to tell them that I'm not who he thinks I am."

Throughout their lives they have competed in everything possible. They wanted to see who was the fastest, the strongest, who could get the better grades and who looked better. When asked who usually won, they answered at the same time, "I did."

The competitive spirit has not changed since they arrived in Baghdad.

"We try to top each other," they said. "Who has the worst sector, who's doing the most things. It keeps us going."

Both of their platoons spend ample time out on patrol.

"Every time I go out on patrol I ask the (Iraqi) people if the situation is getting any better and they always say yes, they are glad to be there," Deeon said.

Reeon agreed with his brother but added one caveat.

"We work a lot with the Iraqi Army, going through the neighborhoods," he said. "Those guys have been working hard, and the Iraqi people seem grateful to see their own Soldiers out on patrol with us."



U.S. Army photo

First Lieutenants Deeon and Reeon Brown share a joke while talking about their experiences growing up as twins. Deeon is a platoon leader with A Co., 4th Bn., 64th Armor. Reeon is assigned to A Co., 3rd Bn., 7th Inf. Rgt. This deployment is the longest the twins have been apart in their lives.

Dedication honors Soldiers

Catherine Caruso
Frontline Staff

Remembering is hard. Forgetting is not an option.

On May 19, the Fort Stewart community dedicated eastern redbud trees in memory of fifteen Soldiers lost during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Spc. Aleina Ramirez Gonzalez, a military police officer, was remembered by her brother, Joel.

He remembered her as the best friend and best sister a brother could have.

Gonzalez was killed by a mortar attack in Tikrit, where she served with the 1st Bn., 3rd Bde.

Friends and family called her a loving, generous person- and seemingly fearless.

Gonzalez deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan with the National Guard, before she enlisted in the active force.

Before she deployed, she went to a football game with her brother.

But when the game ended, she suggested they skip the bus and walk back to the car.

“I said she was crazy. She said ‘OK, I’ll go one better. Let’s run back,’” he said.

He failed to take her up on the challenge.

He said his sister was always pushing herself and others to run that extra mile.

“I am so proud of her. I miss her, but I am so proud, so very proud,” he said.

Alongside those who came to remember sisters and brothers were Soldiers, remembering brothers and sisters-at-arms.

Staff Sgt. John Antila fought to hold back tears while lifting a cloth embroidered with the name of Sgt. Kelly Morris, another 1-64 Armor Bn. Soldier, from the marker under

the tree planted in Morris’ honor.

Morris was shot and killed while on patrol in east Baghdad on March 30.

Spc. John Foster remembered Sgt. Javier Garcia. He cracked a bone in the explosion that killed Garcia Apr. 5.

Foster said he didn’t know Garcia until he was reassigned to Garcia’s platoon shortly after arriving with 1-64 Armor Bn. in Iraq.

But he quickly came to appreciate the sergeant’s low-key style during their patrols together in and around Baghdad.

It was Garcia who manned the machine gun mounted on their armored humvee as Foster, Garcia, and three other Soldiers rode back to their camp after a patrol.

“He didn’t care if you were a sergeant or a private. He was fair to everyone,” Foster said.

He wants to know who detonated the explosion that killed his sergeant and injured three other Soldiers from his platoon.

“It’s part of the job. But I’m angry. I want to go back when this heals,” Foster said. “Someone was watching. It’s personal, now.”

A tree is planted in remembrance of each Soldier who gives his or her life while serving with the 3rd Infantry Division in Iraq.

The trees are part of a living memorial surrounding Warriors’ Walk at Cotrell Field on Fort Stewart.

The trees stand as a symbol of each Soldier’s dedication to his duty and their defense of liberty in the fight against the Global War on Terrorism.

Dedication ceremonies are held on the third Tuesday of the month.



Catherine Caruso

Staff Sgt. John Antila uncovers one of the granite markers inscribed with the name of the Soldier the tree is dedicated to.

Juvenile Disciplinary Control Board helps deter youth from entering into a life of crime

Story and Photos by
Nancy Gould
Frontline Staff

Six teens, ages 13 to 16, sat in the Military Police station's sun-filled lobby and talked quietly among themselves. Most said they would rather be home sleeping on a Saturday morning instead of here, waiting for a police officer to assign their duties for the day.

The Juvenile Disciplinary Control Board, JDCB, imposed those duties for offenses committed at Fort Stewart recently. They included eight hours of cleaning the MP station, washing police cars and picking up trash along the roads at Fort Stewart.

According to Lt. Russell Wilson, Fort Stewart juvenile team chief, the program's intent is corrective in nature and the Saturday work

duty— along with writing assignments, curfews and expulsion from installation facilities and services— provides a means for rehabilitation.

The Provost Marshal's office hired Wilson as its youth detective in 2003, which included additional duties as the installation Drug Abuse Resistance Education officer and the Gang Resistance Education and Training officer (see information at right to learn more about the programs).

Wilson re-established the disciplinary control board program for Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield and Lt. Col. Jeffrey Goble, garrison commander, Hunter Army Airfield, directed how it would run.

Goble believes the punishments imposed for the 328 offenses committed on Fort Stewart and Hunter by youth, ages 13 to 17, have been fair and consistent. For example,

first-time shoplifting offenders must write a letter of apology to the store manger where they commit their misdemeanor crime, offenders must return the stolen merchandize, and their parents must pay a \$200 restitution fee.

"Military families are fortunate," Wilson said.

As a Savannah police officer for three years, Wilson saw parents of Savannah youth pay as much as \$1,000 as their child's shoplifting fine. They were also tried in front of a civilian judge and they often received a year of probation.

In the near future, certain juvenile family members will not get the opportunity to appear before the JDCB. Capt. Chester Gregg, special assistant to the U.S. Attorney at Fort Stewart, is spearheading a Memorandum of Understanding with local juvenile judges. Juveniles who are repeat offenders or those who commit felony acts will appear before a juvenile judge and face the possibility of jail time, probation, and a criminal record.

The JDCB gives first time youth offenders four to eight Saturdays of physical labor, depending on offenses that range from shoplifting, assaults, burglary, curfew violations, and unruly behavior — to simply not obeying their parents.

As the appointed JDCB chairman and judge, Goble, along with board members, determine a youth's guilt or innocence within 30 days of the committed offense.

"This is not a court of law, it's an administrative process governed by Fort Stewart Regulation 15-7 and run by a board," he said, identifying board members as experts who help evaluate offenses and recommend corrective action based on their


respective areas of expertise. Another advantage of the JDCB is that offense records remain confidential and are not shared outside the installation.

Board members include a legal advisor from the Staff Judge Advocate's Office, a school liaison officer from the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, a social worker from the U.S. Army Medical Department Activity, a chaplain from the Chaplain's office, the Hunter Army Airfield Garrison Command Sergeant Major, and also the sergeant major and work program manager from the Division's Provost Marshal Office. Goble said most board members work at Hunter where the court is held and all testify to its increasing effectiveness since it's beginning, especially at Fort Stewart where the housing areas had serious problems.

"For the first five months kids came before the board dressed like gang bangers," Goble said, "And their parents were usually out of uniform. We wanted them to take these proceeding seriously, so we began telling them up front what we expected, including how to dress."

That requirement was enforced when the board turned away one father and son improperly dressed. They were told to come back to the next month's proceeding. Since that was impossible, the father bought new clothes for them both from the Hunter Exchange so they could stay.

"I appreciate the JDCB's strict standards," said the mother of an 11th grade Bradwell Institute student as she dropped him off for the Saturday work program at the Fort Stewart MP Station. This mom took a three-month leave of absence

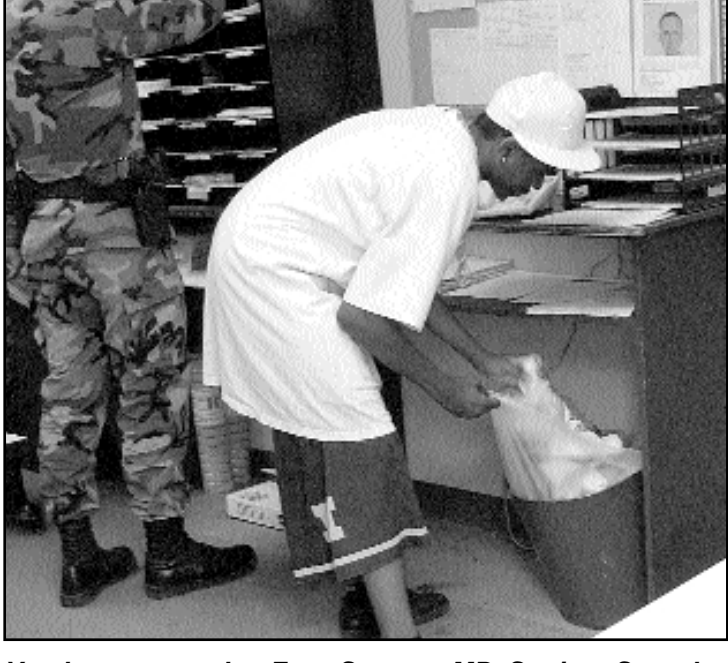


Drug Abuse Resistance Education, DARE, is a highly acclaimed program that gives kids the skills they need to avoid involvement in drugs, gangs, and violence. It was founded in 1983 in Los Angeles and has proven to be so successful that it is now being implemented in nearly 80 percent of our nation's school districts and in more than 54 countries around the world.

It includes a series of police officer led lessons in the classroom that teaches children from kindergarten through 12th grade how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug and violence-free lives.

Gang Resistance Education and Training, GREAT, developed through a combined effort of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Phoenix Police Department in 1991.

The program has a school-based, law enforcement officer-instructed classroom curriculum. The program's primary objective is prevention and is intended as an immunization against delinquency, youth violence, and gang membership.



Youth meet at the Fort Stewart MP Station Saturday mornings for their assignments.

from her nursing job in Savannah hoping to deter future problems. She said she had to make her son her highest priority, especially with her husband deployed. "I never thought in a million years that he'd get in trouble for shoplifting," she said. "He's normally a good kid."

After expressing remorse for his offense, her son said that during the board proceeding he felt like he was in front of an entire group of fathers just like his dad. He said the experience was not pleasant and that he doesn't plan to shoplift again. The 16-year old is now re-focusing on senior year challenges, such as a basketball scholarship that he hopes to obtain.

Goble said second-time offenders could get their families barred from post. Four Fort Stewart families have been barred since 2003 because of their children's actions. The barring is supported by Fort Stewart Regulation 210-5, which states that parents are responsible and held accountable for the actions

of their children.

Wilson said parents should remain vigilant and monitor their children's hours during upcoming summer curfews since they will be strictly enforced on both installations and violators will go before the JDCB. Parents can call Wilson for additional information about curfews or other regulations at 767-8957.

Former DARE and GREAT students have thanked Wilson for those programs and for turning their lives around. Wilson said the programs, along with the JDCB, instill a healthy fear and respect for authority in youth and support the values that most parents are desperately trying to teach.

"At least we can teach our youth that it's ok to walk away from a bad situation," Goble said. "We've tried to root out some deeply entrenched problems on Fort Stewart and I think we've helped."

How to succeed in business — the right way

Catherine Caruso
Frontline Staff

Soldiers can be big business. They are easy to identify, have steady incomes, and can face stiff penalties and swift punishment for not honoring their financial obligations. That makes Soldiers a lucrative market for companies who tailor goods or services to meet their needs. But it also makes them a tempting target for companies who engage in unethical business practices.

Several agencies on post protect Soldiers and families from businesses that prey on service members.

“Every society that has even pretended to be civilized acknowledges that within society, there are predators. And society must come together to protect its members from predators, or we’d all be enslaved by them,” Lt. Col. Russ Putnam, Fort Stewart Staff Judge Advocate, said.

Staff Judge Advocate —

Many transactions begin with a contract.

Contracts are usually designed to protect the party who draws them up, Putnam said.

And they usually aren’t easy to read, unless you happen to be a lawyer.

Putnam said Soldiers who are taken advantage of were often trying to do the right thing, taking out a loan to prevent a bounced check or trying to invest money for themselves and their families.

But predatory businesses exploit rational concerns by pushing their victims to make rash decisions, he said.

Putnam said he warns Soldiers against doing business with anyone who seems too eager for their money.

“If anyone hands you an allotment

form other than your chain of command or a finance NCO, that’s a violation of DoD regulations,” Putnam said.

“And if a Soldier even has a question about anything they are about to sign, they should bring it to one of our lawyers in the legal assistance office.”

Putnam’s office also enforces the rules that govern business dealings on post.

Door-to-door soliciting is prohibited. Businesses operating on the installation must be licensed by the Department of Morale, Welfare, and Recreation as well as any state or federal agencies regulating their industry. And Soldiers of higher rank cannot endorse or even imply endorsement of any business or product to junior Soldiers.

“I take this very seriously,” he said. “If I see evidence, I will not hesitate to prosecute.”

Violators can be barred from post, charged with trespassing, or face action under the UCMJ.

Consumer Affairs —

Like a Better Business Bureau with teeth, the consumer affairs office investigates companies accused of practices that hurt Soldiers or their families.

Consumer advocates investigate and track complaints from members of the Fort Stewart community.

The consumer affairs office investigates a wide range of allegations.

Jeannie Relaford, Fort Stewart’s consumer advocate, has handled complaints about landlords who refuse to return security deposits, companies accused of predatory lending or collections policies, and repair shops that make unauthorized repairs to vehicles, then refuse to release the car without payment for those services.

“One problem is, sometimes people

don’t report things to us. They want to deal with it alone. But that complaint could be the last straw,” Relaford said.

Sometimes, the complaints are unfounded.

Others can be resolved with a letter, or a phone call. Some have prompted legislative action.

Relaford first forwarded complaints about “payday lending” in 1994.

Last year, testimony from military officials, who said debts incurred by high-interest lending threatened military readiness, convinced legislators to ban most forms of “payday lending” in the state.

But that’s an unusual case, Relaford said.

Many issues can be resolved locally, by the installation’s disciplinary action control board.

Disciplinary Control Board —

The disciplinary control board meets at least quarterly to review allegations that businesses, operating on or off-post, are a threat to good order and discipline or Soldier readiness.

Best known as keepers of the post “blacklist,” the board can declare establishments, businesses, or entire geographic areas off-limits to service members.

“Off-limits” orders are typically issued to keep Soldiers away from establishments with a history of hosting illegal activities, such as prostitution or illicit drug transactions.

They may also be issued to protect troops from food-borne illness, or unfair business practices that put Soldier’s finances or security clearances at risk.

But while commands have a vested interest in keeping their troops fit to fight, they aren’t out to stifle the commercial business climate around their installations.

The review process allows proprietors several chances to identify, correct, or dispute the command’s concerns before an off-limits order is issued.

When a complaint is brought before the board, the board designates the appropriate authority to investigate the claim.

If problems of command concern are identified, the establishment is notified of the command’s concerns and given time to correct those issues.

Only if the issues are not resolved does the board vote on whether or not the establishment should be placed off limits.

“We’re actually here to try to resolve the problem, so it doesn’t come to that,” Daniel White, president of Fort Stewart’s disciplinary control board, said.

Businesses under an off-limits order can appeal the decision, or ask for a new ruling once steps are taken to address the



Catherine Caruso

These vendors at the Fort Stewart Exchange followed the correct procedures for setting up a business on post.

Guidelines for doing business on Post

- Don’t use your military ID card to do business on post, or you could be in big trouble.
- Fort Stewart’s disciplinary control board is concerned by reports of military retirees and dependents soliciting business on post without proper authorization.
- Army and local installation rules require anyone meeting with clients or marketing services acquire a solicitor’s permit before doing business on the installation.
- Businesses must be properly licensed in accordance with any applicable state or federal regulations, and abide by post rules regulating commercial activities on the installation.
- The permit is free, and the form takes just a few minutes to fill out.
- You can apply for the permit at the D-MWR office or call Lesa Brannen at 767-5138.

Rules of the Road

- Solicitors doing business on post may meet with Soldiers or family members in their personal living area, by appointment only. Soliciting without a permit is prohibited. Violators may be barred from post, or prosecuted for trespassing.
- Products cannot be marketed to Soldiers in company areas or during the Soldier’s duty hours. Fliers or other literature may not be left in common areas.
- Encouraging junior Soldiers to attend meetings with sales representatives is banned by Fort Stewart and Army regulations. This includes activities at off-post establishments. Offenders may be subject to administrative or UCMJ action.

Reaching out: Troops help clinic, deliver school, other supplies

Story and Photos by
Spc. Matthew Wester
3/1 Armor Div. Public Affairs

TAJI, Iraq — Hundreds of excited children gathered near a clinic as Soldiers passed out school supplies, book bags and toys.

Inside the clinic, another group of troops unloaded boxes of medical supplies as Army medical professionals consulted with their Iraqi counterparts.

Soldiers of the 1st Squadron, 11th

Armored Cavalry Regiment, serving as part of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, 3rd Infantry Division and supporting units, conducted a humanitarian mission to the Husseinia section of northwest Baghdad near Camp Taji.

A large part of the mission was delivering medicine, vaccines, bandages, and vitamins to the Husseinia clinic.

"About two weeks ago we identified what the facility needed in regards to medical supplies and training," Capt. Marc Pelini, effects coordinator, 1/11th ACR, said.

After dropping off the supplies, Army medical personnel were on hand to show the Husseinia clinic's staff how to properly use the supplies, Pelini said.

Army personnel were also on hand to offer guidance to Iraqi doctors and assess whether past guidance had helped the efficiency of the clinic.

"We came back to assess whether they had taken our recommendations, and they had," Capt. Eva-Marie Austin, medical planner, 3rd Bde., said. "They've stocked certain things in the pharmacy, and they've made improvements here."

The focus of the medical part of the mission was support, with Iraqi medical practitioners taking responsibility for providing the healthcare to their own people, and Army personnel helping to get them the supplies and organization they need.

We're doing things behind the scenes, and we're letting the Iraqis treat their people in the way they believe is the

best way to treat them," Pelini said.

"I've met a lot of tremendously capable colleagues on the Iraqi side," Dr. (Col.) John Lammie, senior physician, 550th Area Support Medical Co., 3rd Inf. Div., said. "My hope is that we can get them the infrastructure and be able to provide them with the tools to do the job they know how to do."

As the Army doctors met with the clinic's workers, neighborhood kids shrugged off the afternoon heat and crowded around a humvee, eventually forming a line to receive backpacks, notebooks, pencils, soccer balls and toys.

"Everybody needs school supplies," Spc. Kris A. Zientara, B Co., 403rd Civil Affairs Bn., said. "It was a little hectic, but it turned out alright. We try our best to organize and go from there."

"They know we're working for them, and they're very appreciative," he said.

The crowd continued to grow as the Soldiers made sure every child got something.

"The turnout was good," Sgt. Michael J. Glenn, B Co., said. "Once we open the trunk, they come from everywhere."

"The reception we've gotten here, no matter what the operation is, has been good," he said.

Glenn said the wider civil affairs mission in Husseinia includes distributing needed supplies, but will also focus on improving sewage systems and infrastructure for the area.

"We're here to help them get back on their

feet," he said.

The children smiled gratefully after receiving the items from the civil affairs Soldiers.

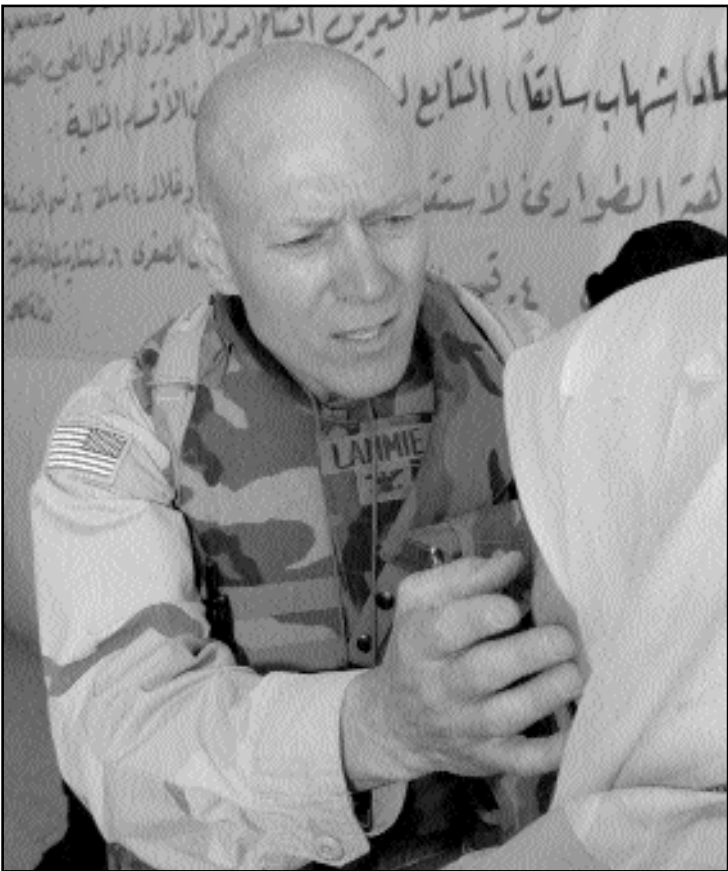
The adults in the community were positive about the visit as well.

Lammie described the people he dealt with during the mission as polite and receptive. Austin agreed.

"This is a very positive area. The people have received us well, have been very respectful," she said. "Overall, it's been a good experience."



Spc. Kris A. Zientara, B Co., 403rd Civil Affairs Bn., hands out toys to children in Husseinia. "They know we're working for them and they're really appreciative," she said.



Dr. (Col.) John Lammie, senior physician, 550th Area Support Medical Company, 3rd Inf. Div., examines an Iraqi woman's eyes during a mission to Husseinia. Lammie consulted with Iraqi medical staff members about treatment for the woman. "I've met a lot of tremendously capable colleagues on the Iraqi side," he said.

Iraqi Army brigade trains to handle emergencies

2nd Lt. Leslie Waddle
1/9 FAPublic Affairs

BAGHDAD — Terrorists detonate a car bomb at a local girl's school, killing 20 students and wounding many more.

The 2nd Iraqi Army Brigade, 6th Division, secures the area at the school, orchestrates a casualty evacuation and treatment plan, and finds the terrorists responsible.

This was one of many training scenarios the U.S. Army Military Training Teams provided the Tiger Brigade during a command post exercise May 9-11 at Baghdad International Airport.

The CPX was conducted by the 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. and was structured to test the Tiger Brigade staff on their ability to coordinate with higher and lower level commands during an emergency, Lt. Col. Paul Humphreys, executive officer, 2nd BCT, said. The MiTT team is composed of about 30 selected officers and NCOs as well as about a dozen interpreters.

The intent of the exercise was to test the 2nd IAB staff on running 24-hour operations said Humphreys.

Prior to this, they had three Tactical Operational Center exercises to put their systems in place for tracking the battle, communicating information, and maintaining status of equip-

ment, personnel and casualties.

This exercise focused on training the Iraqi unit to function as a tactical operations center. This included handling crisis situations, planning and executing operations, and disseminating information within the TOC as well as to subordinate units. Throughout the exercise, they had situations ranging from improvised explosive device and vehicle-borne IED attacks, anti-Iraqi forces gunfire and kidnappings, and convoy ambushes.

"I am really impressed with their reaction time during a crisis. When we first started, they needed guidance on what to do in a crisis," Chief Warrant Officer Lorena Peck, transportation officer, 2nd BCT, said and one of those in charge of running the CPX. "Now they take a situation, an IED attack for example, and develop the situation very quickly."

While the staff worked on TOC exercises, the soldiers were going through rigorous training. Those who did not reside on site, were picked up at the gate at 9 a.m. and escorted in. They conducted physical training at 10 a.m., cleaned themselves up, and then ate. After chow, they conducted an accountability formation where details, priorities of work, and the day's mission were announced. Next, they conducted round-robin training which included a series of classes and hands-on instruction. At the end of the day,



U.S. Army photo

An Iraqi Soldier practices squad and platoon tactics during a command post exercise.

they conducted an after-action review, followed by professional development for NCOs.

"The training has gone well, they still have areas to work on, but have shown a great deal of improvement, especially with participation and a willingness to learn," Staff Sgt. Fredrick Harris, platoon trainer, MiTT, said. "They take training seriously. The classes are similar to (U.S.) basic training classes, but we implement Iraqi traditions."

Harris believes that the training will provide the Iraqi Soldiers with the confidence they need

to execute missions on their own.

Brig. Gen. Aldainie Jawad, Tiger Brigade commander, has been in the Iraqi Army for many years.

He graduated from the military college in 1966 where he later taught. Jawad feels that the Tiger Brigade will be ready to run operations in the city in "very few days."

"I am very thankful to America for helping to put the Iraqi Army together," he said. "You are giving us lots of help to build the Tiger Brigade. You are very good friends of Iraqis."

Iraqi, U.S. troops deliver hope, medical aid, caring

1st Lt. Adam Harris
3/7 Cav. Information Operations

SALMAN PAK, Iraq — Iraqi and U.S. Army medical officers examined more than 500 residents who came to a Salman Pak clinic, providing medical advice, treatment, and prescription medication in a medical civil action project.

"The main purpose of a MEDCAP is to provide simple medicines and treatment for simple wounds and conditions, while assessing the overall health of the people," Maj. Rick Smudin, team leader, 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion, said. "It's a good opportunity to build trust and support for our Soldiers and the Iraqi forces in the neighborhood."

The clinic was run by Soldiers from 3rd Bn., Iraqi Intervention Forces and C Troop, 3rd Sqd., 7th Cav. at a forward observation building about a mile outside the main city of Salman Pak. Several of the rooms were

cleaned and furnished in order to accommodate the mission and, although space was limited, all residents who came to the clinic were able to receive medical care.

"The medical operation in Salman Pak provided the people with a chance to receive medical help," Capt. Brett Bair, commander, C Troop, said. "Some of the people were witnesses or victims of insurgent attacks."

One of the residents seen by doctors was shot twice by insurgent forces, thrown into the Tigris River and left for dead.

Although the clinic provided medical assistance for residents and better intelligence for coalition forces, the clinic brought several hundred of the residents of Salman Pak and coalition forces together for the first time.

Before 3/7 Cav. was tasked with providing security for Salman Pak in late March, insurgents used the town to conduct anti-Iraqi government operations and terror-

ize residents.

"We were scared to even walk outside our home before the Americans came here," Ali Jafta, a resident of Salman Pak, said.

With continued operations in the area by Iraqi and U.S. forces, many of the residents feel more secure than they did during the months prior.

"Overall, the clinic was a huge success," Smudin said. "It helped build upon the significant progress that has been made and the increasing confidence of the residents of Salman Pak toward coalition forces. This event, without a doubt, proved that coalition forces are committed to helping the people."



1st Lt. Adam Harris

A boy, living down the road from the compound, looks scared before he was given a shot. Throughout the day, hundreds of children received medical attention by Iraqi and U.S. doctors.

Hard working mechanics keep Blackhawk Apaches flying high

Story and Photos by
Spc. Derek Del Rosario
Avn. Bde. Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Everyone knows Rosie the Riveter.

You might not recognize the name, but you have most likely seen the picture.

Rosie the Riveter is most famous for her WWII poster — a female in blue overalls, rolling up her sleeve, flexing her bicep and exclaiming, "We can do it!"

Rosie symbolized how women didn't mind getting dirty to help the war efforts.

This message holds strong today, especially for two female mechanics in Delta Co. 3rd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment (Attack Reconnaissance).

On the surface, Specialists Melissa D. Crawford and Damaris Young look poles apart. Crawford stands 6-foot-1 and loosely wears a size large-long DCU top. Young is 4-foot-10 and wears a DCU top size extra-small/extra-short.

What they do share however, is that they are both hard working, female mechanics doing their job in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Both Crawford and Young had different motives for being a helicopter mechanic.

Young's choice to join was mostly driven by patriotism, while Crawford was inspired by her son.

"I have great pride for my country; I wanted to get deployed," Young said.

"Working on helicopters is a great thrill for me. I am very interested in how helicopters work, and working on them also makes me feel important," she added.

"I wanted to be a mechanic for my son, Crawford said.

"We were driving by Fort Hood one day, and my son was so excited to see a helicopter fly by. He wanted to see one up close, so I decided that I wanted to be a mechanic so that his wish would one day come true," she said.

Young surprises most people when she tells them she maintains Apaches.

Her fellow workers sometimes tease her for being uncharacteristic of what most people see as a typical mechanic.

"No one believes me when I say I'm a mechanic. Some of my buddies tease me when I can't reach high places and need a stepstool," Young said. "But I'm a tomboy. I've been working with my Dad on cars and motorcycles since I was a child."

Before joining the Army, Crawford wasn't really exposed to mechanics. She graduated with a Bachelors degree in Computer Science and held mostly office jobs.

The extent of her experience was helping her father work on the car, but it was a far stretch from working on Apaches.

For Crawford, she gained a lot of confidence as a mechanic during Operation

Iraqi Freedom I.

"When I got my first certificate of achievement, that's when I felt like a real mechanic," Crawford said.

"During the first deployment here in Iraq, the chain of command really noticed the hard work we (the unit) put in and they let us know how proud they were," she said.

Females are rare in the mechanics field, so working in an environment made up of mostly males was daunting at first for Crawford.

Now she has a strong bond with her fellow coworkers.

"They were scared of offending me at first, so they would often watch what they would say around me," said Crawford. "You have to have a sense of humor as a female in this line of work. We joke and laugh together now. They are like my brothers. To them I'm not just 'some female,' I'm Crawford."

The mechanics of Delta co. must work together in order to handle their huge workload.

The battalion is flying six times as much as they did in the rear, so team cohesion is needed to help maintain the Apaches. Crawford and Young practice a strong work ethic when working in Delta co.

"In a way I have to prove myself as a mechanic," Young said. "I continue to work hard and hold my own weight, I don't mind getting dirty. I will do whatever it takes to get the job done."

Crawford understands that

being a female mechanic can come with labels.

When someone challenges her abilities, Crawford lets her actions take care of the stereotyping.

"You let them talk their trash and then you correct them with action," Crawford said.

"I've gotten used to the trash-talk from people who think I can't do the job or handle it. I just show them up by working better and faster," she said.

The entire company has been working better and faster, as the battalion puts in more than 2,000 flight hours a month.

A feat that could not be accomplished without the efforts of the dedicated mechanics of Delta co.

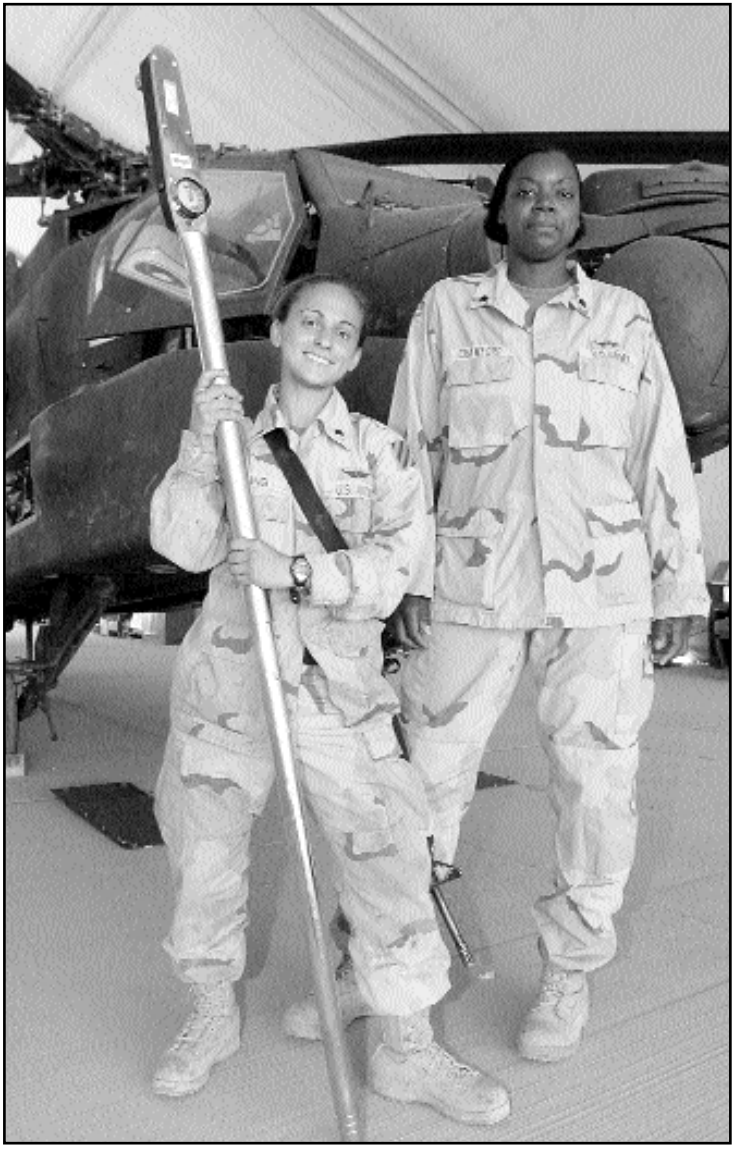
"We play a huge role in the Apaches, they couldn't fully function without maintenance," Crawford said.

"And without Apaches, it would all fall to the infantrymen. Apaches are needed to help on convoys, prevent ambushes and react to fire," she said.

Young also recognizes the importance of mechanics to the Aviation Brigade, and the dedication it takes to support the mission.

"As a mechanic, working hard and staying motivated is essential for mission completion," Young said.

"The lives of those two (Apache) pilots are in our hands, as well as the Soldiers they save when they support infantrymen on the ground," she said.



Specialists Damaris A. Young and Melissa D. Crawford represent the two female mechanics of Delta Co. 3rd battalion 3rd Aviation Regiment.



Specialists Melissa Crawford and Damaris Young work on an Apache rotorhead. Crawford and Young are the only two female mechanics in Delta Co. 3rd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment.

Aviation reaches safety, mission milestones

Derek Del Rosario
Avn. Bde. Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment (General Support) are being recognized for their efforts - in increments of 50.

Since arriving to Camp Taji, the command group of 2/3 GSAB recognizes battalion Soldiers with the "Baghdad 50," award which recognizes mission support and safety practices that are completed in 50 consecutive units.

This includes either 50 hours of consecutive combat flight hours, 50 days worth of mission completion, or 50 days of accident free and successful aircraft maintenance.

Earlier this month, approximately 30 Soldiers were awarded the Baghdad 50 during a presentation in the 2/3 GSAB Hangar.

Lt. Col. Robert Bannon, commander, 2/3 GSAB, presented the Baghdad 50 certificates and

special recognition to battalion Soldiers in recognition of their safety practices and mission completion.

"We have great Soldiers, aviators and mechanics in this battalion. The Baghdad 50 is designed to show our appreciation and acknowledge excellence in safety on land and air," Bannon said. "Since being here we have put in 3,000 flight hours and transported 20,000 Soldiers and 1.5 million pounds of cargo, that's a lot of business. It couldn't have been done without good maintenance and safety practices."

The Soldiers of 2/3 GSAB have been working hard for during the first half of the deployment, putting in around 1,300 night vision goggle flights and 1,300 hours of day time flying.

In addition, Blackhawk helicopter maintainers of the battalion have completed around twenty 100 hour inspections and eight 250 hour inspections. These are all very admirable accomplishments, but the most important thing to Chief Warrant

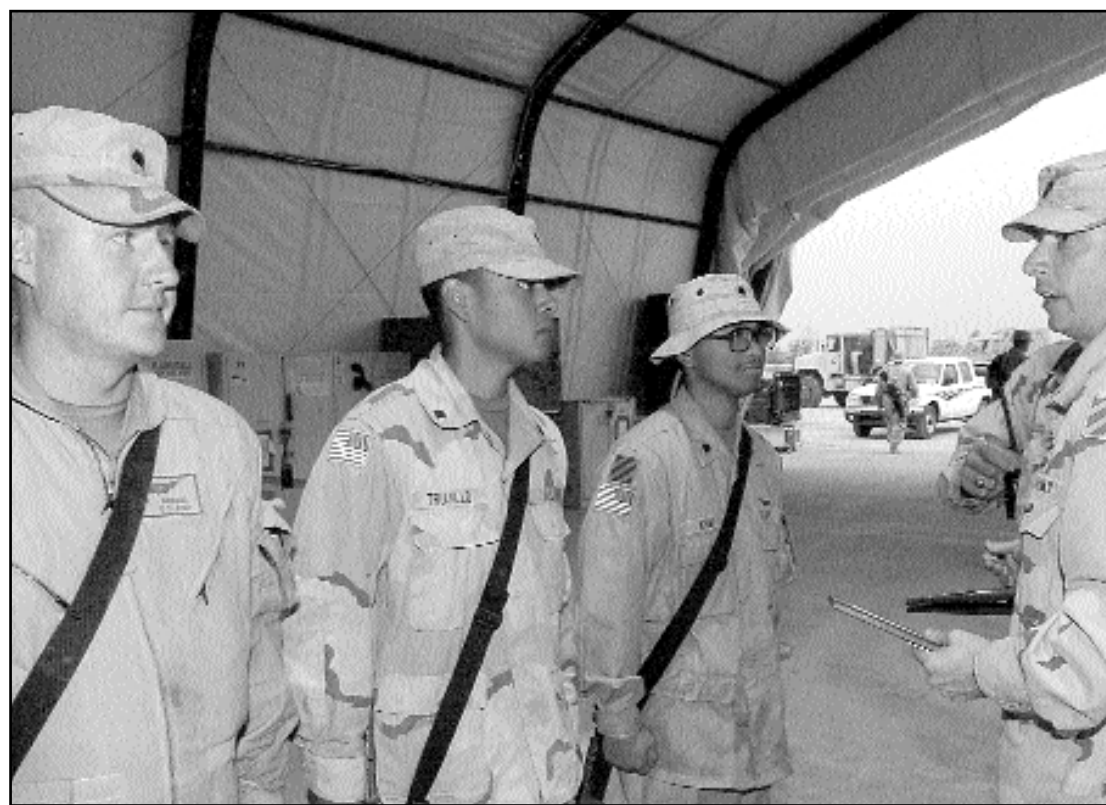
Officer 4 George M. Arthurs, battalion safety officer, is that these milestones were accomplished in a safe manner.

"The Baghdad 50 represents how unit assets have been working in a very efficient manner with safety always in mind," Arthurs said. "The NCOs are doing an outstanding job. Standards are being met and safety is always being followed. It means a lot to these Soldiers to be recognized for their effort in such a demanding and harsh environment."

The Soldiers continue to work hard and recognition for their efforts have a positive affect on their morale, Spc. Jose L. Trujillo, Blackhawk mechanic, Charlie Co., 2/3 GSAB, and a recipient of the Baghdad 50, said.

"This award just shows us that we are doing our jobs well and we are being recognized for it," Trujillo said. Safety is paramount when it comes to being a helicopter mechanic," he added.

Baghdad 50 recipient Spc.



Spc. Derek Del Rosario

(Left to right) Specialists Jeremy A. Connors, Jose L. Trujillo, and Sakpraneth Khim, Charlie Co., 2/3 GSAB, stand in line to receive the "Baghdad 50" certificate from Lt. Col. Robert Bannon, battalion commander, recognizing their safe execution of aircraft maintenance.

Jeremy A. Connors, Chinook mechanic, Charlie Co., 2/3 GSAB, could not agree more that safety is the most important aspect to keep in mind for a mechanic.

"The job always needs to be done with safety in mind. We

are looking out for our buddies out there," Connors said. "One loose bolt could mean the difference, so we are always working hard to make it safe for the pilots."

Bannon challenged the battalion Soldiers to continue their

hard work throughout the rest of their deployment.

"In this business, you are only as good as your last mission," Bannon said. "As long as the Soldiers continue to do their jobs and mission safely, they will continued to be recognized."

Forces find weapons, capture terrorists

Task Force Baghdad Public Affairs

BAGHDAD — Task Force Baghdad Soldiers continued to take terror weapons and terror suspects off the streets by conducting a series of operations throughout the city.

Recently an Iraqi Army unit discovered a hidden weapons stockpile in the Salman Pak neighborhood of southeast Baghdad. The cache contained more than 100 mortar rounds, 53 rockets, 40

mines and two torpedoes. The soldiers also found 10 rolls of detonation cord at the site. The weapons were taken to a nearby Iraqi Police station for disposal.

Later, Iraqi citizens flagged down an Iraqi Army patrol in central Baghdad and handed over four hand grenades and 14 mortar charges they said they found while working in the area. The weapons were taken to the units headquarters for disposal.

"The violence in Iraq is not just against multinational forces, it is

against Iraqis, Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, Task Force Baghdad spokesperson, said. "Everyday Iraqi citizens can help fight terrorists and criminals by reporting them to the police and Army. The citizens of Baghdad vastly outnumber the terrorists and are starting to use their strength."

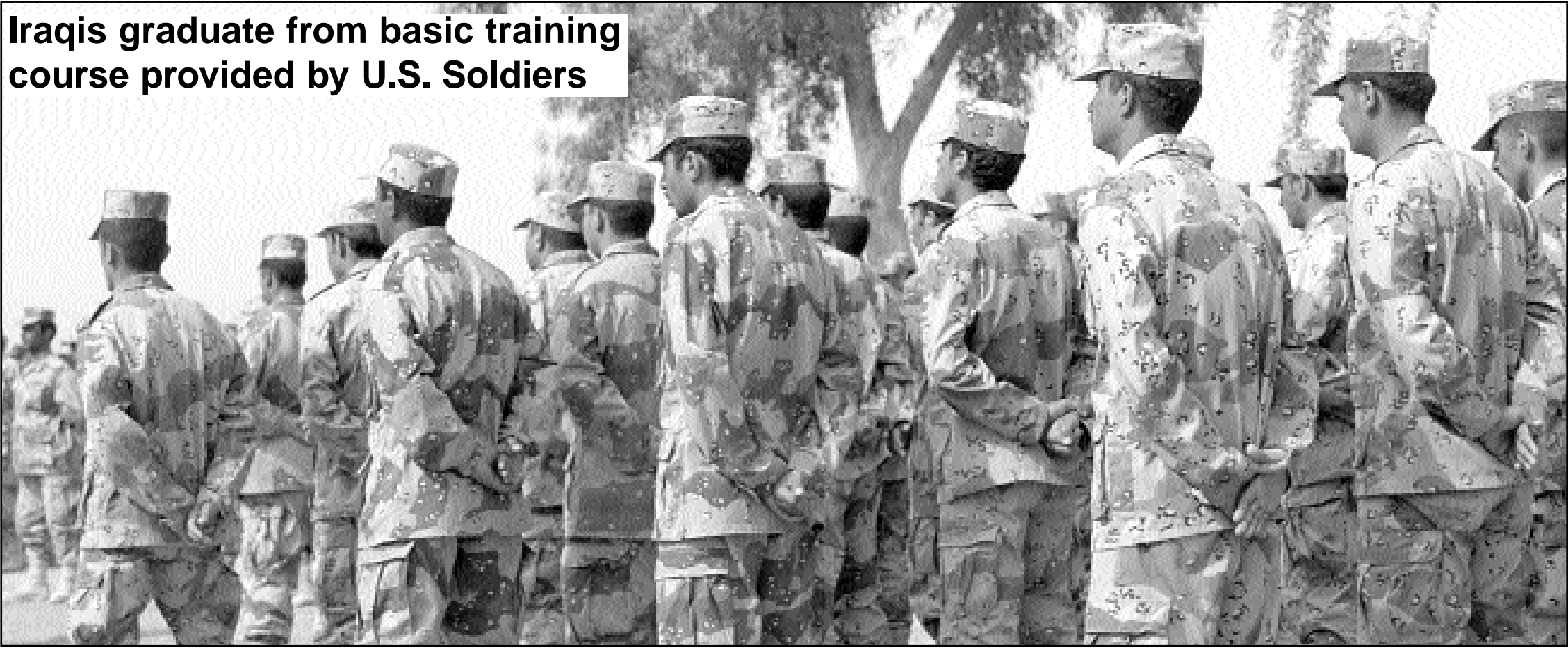
In other combat operations, Task Force Baghdad Soldiers captured 13 suspected terrorists in three early morning raids carried out in west and central Baghdad. One of the suspects was specifical-

ly targeted for possible involvement in a terror cell in central Baghdad.

Later in the day, U.S. Soldiers arrested two more suspects in central Baghdad. The Soldiers came upon the men in a parked car on a major highway. When the unit searched the vehicle they found traces of explosives, nearly \$1,000 in U.S. currency and a large amount of terrorist propaganda.

The two detainees were taken into custody for questioning.

Iraqis graduate from basic training course provided by U.S. Soldiers



Soldiers of 5th Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division stand in formation during a graduation ceremony at the Iraqi Army Training Academy in Taji, Iraq. The soldiers completed a two-week training program which included basic soldiering skills, marksmanship, and urban warfare techniques. They also learned how to interact with the Iraqi citizens they will be protecting and different strategies to fight terrorists.



(Left) An Iraqi Army banner is displayed during a basic training graduation ceremony at the Iraqi Army Training Academy in Taji, Iraq. The soldiers completed a two-week training program which included basic soldiering skills. They also learned how to interact with the Iraqi citizens. "They must have this knowledge to do their duty," Maj. Mouafak Khayou, Iraqi commander of the Academy, said. (Right) Soldiers of 5th Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division stand in formation during a graduation ceremony at the Iraqi Army Training Academy in Taji, Iraq.



3ID IN BRIEF

Stewart	Hunter	Winn /Tuttle
<p>Bowling and Golf</p> <p>Free bowling and shoe rental at Marne and Hunter Lanes, 1 — 5 p.m., the last Saturday of the month, for Soldiers and family members.</p> <p>No golf fees at Taylors Creek and Hunter Courses from 1 — 5 p.m., the last Thursday of every month.</p> <p>Golf cart rental, \$7 per person for 9 holes or \$12 for 18 holes.</p> <p>Library</p> <p>Read a Poem to Your Sweetheart — Schedule a 30 minute appointment to record a DVD of you reading to your sweetheart, from 1 to 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>Army Hooah Race</p> <p>Soldiers, civilians, family members and friends of the Army are invited to participate in the 4th Annual Army Hooah Race Jun. 11.</p> <p>The race starts at 7:30 a.m. in the metro-Atlanta area. Come and enjoy the fun.</p>	<p>Change of Command Ceremony for Lt. Col. Jeffery Goble</p> <p>Ceremony is scheduled for 9 a.m., Jun. 15, at the Hunter Parade Field. North Lightening Rd. will be closed from the USCG Air Station to Stephen Douglas St., 8 - 10 a.m.</p> <p>Vacation Bible School Registration</p> <p>Register now at the Hunter Chapel for Bible School, scheduled 9 a.m. — Noon, Jun. 13 - 17. Children ages 4 - 12 are invited to come learn about the Bible and have fun playing games, enjoying music and participating in arts and crafts projects in the process.</p> <p>For more information call Joseph Peer, 352-6815, or Pamela Perez at 352-5440.</p> <p>Bowling and Golf</p> <p>There is free Bowling and shoe rental the last Saturday of every month at Hunter Lanes, 1 - 5 p.m., for Soldiers and family members.</p> <p>There are no golf green fees the last Thursday of every month at Hunter Golf Course. Golf Cart rental is \$7 per person for 9 holes or \$12 per person for 18 holes.</p> <p>Hunter Youth Summer Sports Camp Registration Begins</p> <p>Open to all CYS members living on or off post. Age cut-off date for all camps is the age on the first day of camp.</p> <p>Camps include — Fitness Authority Pentathlon Training; Weightlifting (ages 13-18); Cheerleading (ages 7-12); Swimming (ages 5-8, 8-12 & 8-16) and Soccer (ages 8-12).</p> <p>Call 352-5425 to register.</p> <p>Learning Center, now open late!</p> <p>The Hunter Learning Center, Rm. 22 in the Education Center, is now open late.</p> <p>Hours are now 4 - 8:30 p.m. Mon.-Thurs., and 4 - 7:30 p.m. on Fri.</p> <p>A 16-station computer lab with internet access is available, and an academic facilitator to help with basic skills, SAT study, or CLEP preparation.</p> <p>The learning center is also open weekends, Sat. from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Sun. from Noon - 6 p.m.</p> <p>For more information call 352-5908.</p> <p>Hunter Library, new hours!</p> <p>The Hunter Branch Library is now open Tues. and Wed., 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.</p> <p>Reference books, children's books, newspapers, magazines, videotapes, DVD's internet access, books on tape, and more are available to soldiers and their families.</p> <p>The library is located in the HAAF Education Center, Bldg. 1290, Rm. 24.</p> <p>For more information, call 353-2403.</p> <p>Hunter AAF Storytime on DVD</p> <p>Soldiers, record a bedtime story for your child on DVD!</p> <p>The Hunter Branch Library, will open</p>	<p>Telephone Prefix Change <i>The hospital telephone and fax number prefix has changed from 370 to 435.</i></p> <p>Troop and Family Clinic Open</p> <p>The Troop and Family Care Medical Clinic is now open. Sick-call and other Soldier care usually provided at SFHC #3 will be provided here. For more information, call 435-5364.</p> <p>Staying Healthy Classes</p> <p>This class offers strategies for staying healthy.</p> <p>Upon completion of the class, individuals will be given an over-the-counter pharmacy card for use at Winn and Tuttle. To register, call Community Health Nursing at 435-5071 or 1-800-652-9221.</p> <p>Army Substance Abuse Program</p> <p>The Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Army Substance Abuse Program offers individual and group counseling services for adults with alcohol or drug abuse problems.</p> <p>This program is offered to family members over the age of 18, active-duty Soldiers, retirees and Department of Defense employees.</p> <p>The Fort Stewart office is open 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Monday thru Friday. For more information, call 767-5265.</p> <p>The Hunter office is open 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.</p> <p>Tuesday and Friday. For more information, call 352-5236.</p> <p>School Health Screenings</p> <p>School Health Screening will be available by appointment.</p> <p>The screening includes dental, immunization, eye and ear checks.</p> <p>All children entering the Georgia school system for the first time must be screened.</p> <p>To make an appointment, call 435-6633.</p> <p>Dental and immunization screenings are available on a walk-in basis.</p> <p>Dental screenings are available 12:15 to 2 p.m. Monday thru Thursday at Dental Clinic #1 and Dental Clinic #3.</p> <p>Immunizations are available 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m. Monday thru Wednesday and Friday and 10 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday.</p> <p>Eye and ear screenings are available by appointment through the EENT clinic.</p> <p>Ready to Quit Class</p> <p>If you're interested in quitting tobacco use, walk-in to a one hour Ready to Quit class.</p> <p>You can register for the 4-week Tobacco Use Cessation program during this class or pick-up self-help materials to quit on your own.</p> <p>Ready to Quit is a pre-requisite to the Tobacco Use Cessation program.</p> <p>For more information, call Community Health Nursing at 370-5071 or 1-800-652-9221.</p>

Baghdad screened for clean water

Sgt. Karolina Lojewska
443rd CAB Public Affairs

BAGHDAD — Earlier this year, 2nd Lt. Bradford Labine, an environmental science officer, identified an overlooked area in drinking water for Baghdad. There were no functioning water testing laboratories.

"Water distribution systems and other high visibility construction projects were gaining most of the attention leaving the

testing labs behind in rehabilitation," Labine said.

Labine has been a chiropractor for the past seven years. Now, he's a member of HHC 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion, working in the Division Surgeon section, 3rd Infantry Division. He draws upon past experiences as an environmental chemist as a member of the Public Health team in Iraq.

One of his most important jobs is to help local people get clean drinking water into their

households and working environments.

Labine arrived in Baghdad in September, and has assessed water treatment plants throughout the 3ID area.

He has sampled and tested drinking water in schools, Iraqi Police stations and residential areas, as well as discussed water quality and home-based treatment with the locals.

After field testing the basic physical and microbial properties of the water, he submits the samples for further testing to Navy and Army analytical labs.

Areas of concern found within the labs that he has addressed include writing a Quality Assurance Management Plan, developing standard operating procedures, offering advice on record keeping and laboratory techniques, determining equipment and supply needs and data review.

Currently, Labine is making recommendations to the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Environment for adoption of new microbiology methods, which will have an impact on national standards for drinking water.

Sweep ————— **From 1A**



Maj. Timothy Raymond

Part of the weapons cache unearthed by Soldiers of the 70th Engineer Bn., 3rd Bde., 1st Armored Div. and 1st Sqd., 11th Armored Cav. Rgt. northwest of Baghdad.

immediately set to excavating the site.

As Sgt. Jason Faras, Pfc. Leslie Thompson, and Pfc. Harold Kuykendal began digging, they found several large caliber munitions.

"It's like Christmas down here," Kuykendal said. "Things just keep coming up," he exclaimed.

As they continued to unearth more and more munitions, the 70th Engineer Bn. knew they had something big, so they brought in extra Soldiers to continue the sweep.

"This is an excellent to know these munitions won't be used to build any IED's," Lt. Col. Anthony Wright, commander, 70th Engineer Bn., said

The 70th Engineers pulled almost three thousand pounds of large caliber explosive munitions out of the weapons cache in six hours of grueling hot work. The staff and Soldiers of 3rd Bde. agree that Operation Clean Sweep was a success.

"It's clear to me that this find (has) saved an untold number of U.S. and Coalition Forces' lives," Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Cady, 70th Engineers, said.

"They pulled one round out every 20 seconds for about two and a half hours - It was unbelievable," Cady said.



Clean water is a primary health concern for the Iraqis.

Sky —————

and the body and another team of experts who work on the complex camera and electrical systems that are used to relay information back to the controllers.

Another team controls the take off from the launcher and the actual flying of the planes until they hand over control to forward operators in Baghdad.

Di Dio said once the TUAVs are patrolling in the air, their operator's mission is to use the advanced camera system to search for enemy attackers using mortars and improvised explosive devices. The TUAVs

also track people and vehicles and watch over raids.

"The great thing about UAVs is that commanders can watch the battlefield in real-time; you can look at a target as we speak," Di Dio said.

If a target is spotted it allows commanders to position necessary forces to execute their mission as rapidly as possible and to keep their eyes on the target.

"The usefulness of this reconnaissance asset is that since it's unmanned, any danger to human lives is removed," Di Dio said. "It's a big help to the aviation brigade because it pro-



2nd Lt. Bradford Labine, environmental science officer, HHC, 443rd CAB, 3rd Infantry Division, Public Health Team, performs field water testing at the Qadissya Water Treatment Plant.

From Page 1A

vides aerial reconnaissance but takes pilots out of harms way."

The planes run silent, are relatively small and can't be seen while in flight, therefore people don't even know when they are in the air patrolling above them, Di Dio said.

Full control of the TUAVs is handed back to operators from Shadow Company for landing when the mission is complete. Although landings are mostly controlled by computers and satellite dishes, the systems must be surveyed carefully to ensure the dishes are at exact levels of elevation.

"This ensures that the plane has actually touched the runway and can slow down when the computers think it did," Pfc. Thomas J. Hargraves, UAV operator, Shadow Co., said. "The plane can crash if it's off by even a small degree."

The team of Soldiers in Shadow Co. has worked very hard to master their craft of putting UAVs in the sky.

"I still have fun every time I see one take off or land," Di Dio said. It's a great feeling to work on these planes," Hargraves said. "I'm just happy to be part of something that flies."

Alert citizens, Iraqi Police defuse bombs planned for attack

2nd BCT Public Affairs

BAGHDAD — Iraqi citizens saved the lives of many women, children and other Iraqis by alerting Iraqi police to a vehicle bomb threat near a crowded marketplace.

Local nationals thought something was suspicious about a vehicle parked on the side of a road directly next to a densely populated market area in Zafaraniya, a suburb of Baghdad.

The citizens told the local Iraqi police about the vehicle. The response

by the Iraqi police was immediate. Police officers secured the area to ensure no citizens were in danger.

Before an Iraqi police explosive ordnance disposal team arrived on the scene, the vehicle bomb exploded causing no injuries or damage.

"Extensive loss of life and property damage was averted due to the teamwork of the Iraqi people and the Iraqi police on site," Lt. Col. Steven Merkel, commander, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, 2nd BCT, said.

Following the explosion the EOD

team assessed the area around the vehicle bomb and discovered another vehicle bomb nearby.

The Iraqi police cordoned off the area around the second car bomb and the Iraqi explosives team safely detonated the bomb on site.

"This is one of those days that reaffirms the confidence that we all share in the fact that the Iraqi people will not accept failure," Merkel said.

"They are on the road to democracy, and will not fail to meet the tough challenges ahead," he said.



Explosives packed in a vehicle parked near a busy marketplace in the Baghdad suburb of Zafaraniya. Alert Iraqi residents in the area reported the car bomb to Iraqi police.



Police and an Iraqi Explosive Ordnance disposal team work to clear a street near a densely populated market area in Zafaraniya after alert citizens reported a car bomb parked nearby. Iraqi police officers found two car bombs at the site.



An Iraqi explosives specialist displays a remote controlled detonation device found in a vehicle parked near a crowded market in Zafaraniya, a suburb of Baghdad.

Iraqi Police, fire stations renovated in Rusafa

2nd BCT Public Affairs

BAGHDAD — Iraqi owned contractors recently completed renovations to four police and fire stations in east Baghdad.

The four stations offer increased capability and force protection and provide better support to the community.

The New Baghdad Traffic Sector, Bab Al Sheikh Police Station, and Al Baladiat and Al

Shiek fire stations have gone through major refurbishment to include upgrading of perimeter walls, guard shacks, generator repairs, electrical and plumbing enhancement, living space improvements and general beautification of the facilities.

"These refurbishment projects were completed with an exceptional amount of professionalism. The Iraqi contractors and Iraqi labor teamed to complete facilities that the firefighters and police officers can be proud to work in," Travis Lynch, engineer, Army Corps of Engineers, said.

A senior firefighter, who preferred not to be identified, said that the final renovations were better then he ever imagined. He was now proud to bring his children to the station to show them where he worked, he said.

Although many other police and fire stations in Eastern Baghdad are currently under renovation, the completion of these four is beneficial, highlighting what the future holds for other stations in the area.

"The completion of these projects is allowing us to highlight to other eastern Baghdad police and fire chiefs what a refurbishment of their facilities



U.S. Army Photo

An Iraqi laborer puts the finishing touches on an outer wall of the newly renovated Bab Al Sheikh fire station. Iraqi contractors and Iraqi labor teamed to complete renovations on four Iraqi Police stations, fire stations and a traffic sector in east Baghdad.



U.S. Army Photo

Four Iraqi Police stations, fire stations and the traffic sector have undergone major refurbishments to include upgrading of perimeter walls, guard shacks, generator repairs, electrical and plumbing enhancement, living space improvements and general beautification of the facilities.

ties might look like in the near future," Lynch said.

Sewer, water, electricity and trash projects have been well-publicized in Baghdad, but according to Capt. Bill Clark, engineer, Army Corps of Engineers, that should not take away from the importance of smaller projects and their impact on the community.

"I am glad to highlight these four projects today. I am certain they will have a dramatic impact on the community," Clark said, and added the projects were an investment of more than \$600,000 and took six months to complete. On average, twelve people were involved in the construction at the site.

Iraqi Soldiers train to be defenders of their own country, destiny now

Pfc. Dan Balda
4th BCt Public Affairs

BAGHDAD — The training could be found on an U.S. Army base anywhere in the world. Soldiers listened to their instructors with rapt attention; happy to receive any feedback, positive or negative, which helped them learn faster. They knew the faster they learned, the faster they could shed the watchful eye of their teacher and be able to defend the country they love; the country to which they have pledged their lives.

But this was not an American military base with American Soldiers. It was a hot, dusty airfield near Baghdad and the ones paying close attention to the instructor were Iraqi men with their lives and their country's future at stake.

Some of these Iraqi Soldiers have already seen combat with Marines in Fallujah in 2004, others have only fired their weapons at the range. Regardless, everything they learn

today could save their lives tomorrow.

Soldiers could not ask questions of their instructor directly, but had to ask an interpreter and have the question relayed to Sgt. Leigh Castle, communications expert, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry.

"These guys know the things we are teaching them are going to save their lives," Castle said.

"The Iraqi Soldiers need to know when they are doing something wrong so they can correct it, but too much negativity can have an adverse affect on the training," he added.

"It's hot, they are spending their day out here just like us, in the same conditions, and sometimes you have to give them a little boost to bring them together. They have problems just like anyone else and I like to talk to them; to try to understand their issues, but I also have to tell them that we have a job to do and ask for a couple of hours of concentration," Castle said.

Two of the issues the American instructors find themselves dealing with are the language barrier, and the habits some of the Iraqi Soldiers have brought with them from their prior service in the military in the former regime, Staff Sgt. Jason Stoko, section leader, Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 4th Bn., 64 Armor, said.

Capt. Justin Reese, commander, HHT 6/8 Cav., thinks another issue the Soldiers have brought with them is the ineffective use of noncommissioned officers.

"(Under the former regime) the officers did all the work," Reese said. "We are trying to empower their non-commissioned officer corps. That is the greatest challenge: sergeants who are not used to getting up taking charge of an organization, are now expected to take the lead."

Regardless of how the Soldiers were taught before, they still maintain the intelligence to learn and apply their new skills.

"We know what to expect from



Pfc. Dan Balda

Members of the Iraqi Army practice squad-based movements at Muthana Airfield.

them as far as training and accountability," Reese said.

"We talk to each other about our various experiences and we both learn from each other," he said.

Castle has found one way to hurdle the language gap.

"I can't wait to get out of the classroom to the range because it's a lot more hands-on and you can show

them things; a lot of that language barrier goes away. I can grab a Soldier's rifle and show them how I want something done. Then they copy me. Soldiering is universal," Castle added.

1st Lt. Naim Lee, platoon leader, C Troop, 6/8 Cav., was surprised by the Iraqi Soldiers.

"I wasn't expecting them to be so

willing to learn. They are very eager to learn and easy to teach. Also, most of them want to make their country better," he said.

Even though Lee's Soldiers are fulfilling a different mission here in Iraq than the one they trained for at Fort Stewart, they are excited to be training the men who are going to take over for them.

Infrastructure continues to improve in village of Al-Rasheed Radwaniya

Story and Photos by
Maj. Alayne Conway
4th BCT Public Affairs

RADWANIYA, Iraq — After spending a few months in Iraq, Soldiers soon forget the ease of being able to travel within the United States over more than two million miles of paved roads and streets. It is a little known fact that the first constructed roads date from about 4,000 B.C. and were built in Ur (Mesopotamia area), or modern-day Iraq.

Iraq today has plenty of roadways but for small neighborhoods like Radwaniya, a paved

road goes a long way in improving transportation and the economy.

Iraqi leaders from the Radwaniya Neighborhood Advisory Council along with Coalition forces completed a road project that spans more than four kilometers and cost about \$565,000.

Radwaniya is a neighborhood located in the district of Al Rasheed.

"The paving of the Hamourabi village road is great for the community," Capt. Christian Neels, civil-military operations officer, 3rd Bn., 7th Inf. Rgt., said. "The completion of the road will offer a quicker means

of allowing farmers and the local population to get to the market and in the long run, contribute to the economic progress of the area."

Neels added that unemployment in the surrounding towns of Musafir and the Hey Al Askari area is high.

With few jobs available in the community, the roadway will allow the population to get into Baghdad where employment opportunities are greater.

Soldiers from 1st Bn., 21st Field Artillery, 1st Cav. Div. initially proposed the project to provide easier access for farmers and the local population to get to

the market and to operate their vehicles after rains. Prior to the paving of the roadway, civilian traffic was severely restricted by the mud roads and the adjacent canal.

After the transition of authority between 1st Cav. Div. and 3rd Inf. Div. in Feb. 2005, 3/7 Inf. inherited the project and worked closely with Sheikh Ali Muttar, the Radwaniya NAC chairman, Neels said.

Sheikh Ali has overseen other infrastructure improvement projects in the Radwaniya neighborhood.

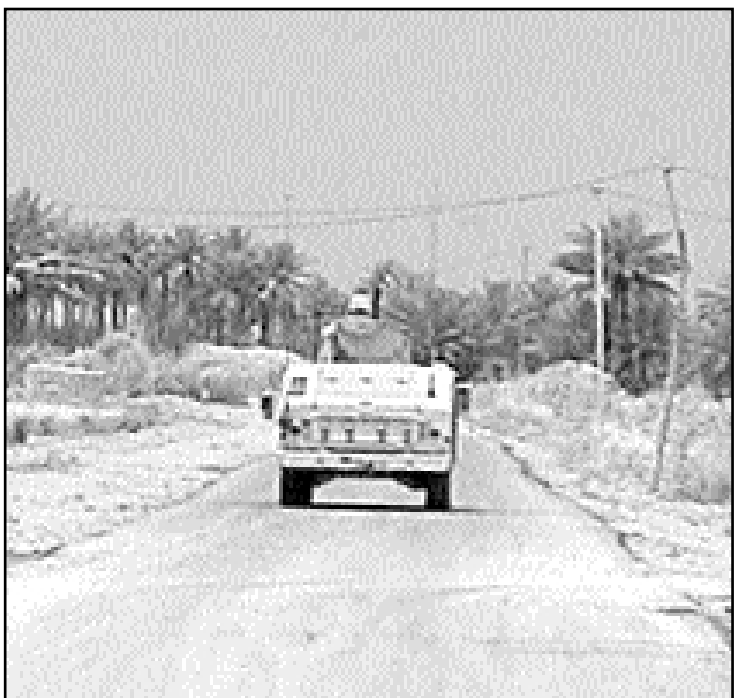
A 3,000 meter waterline that runs alongside the Hamourabi Road was built and works in conjunction with two water towers in the area, said Sheikh Ali.

"The two water towers in Hey Al Askari and Al Musafir have the potential of providing drinking water for at least 7,000 people," he said.

He also said that before the water project can be accepted by the Municipality of Baghdad, the local contractor must make some modifications.

The NAC has also renovated a school for the area, led a campaign of removing trash and built two soccer fields. Although the Radwaniya area now falls under the control of 3rd Sqd., 3rd Armored Cav. Rgt., the Soldiers of 3/7 Inf. keep in touch with the progress of Sheikh Ali and his community and there is still much work to be done in other areas.

"Continuing roadway and water improvements and establishing long term employment of the local population in our sector will continue to be our emphasis," Neels said.



A view of Hamourabi Road from the backseat of a Humvee. Iraqi leaders from the Radwaniya Neighborhood Advisory Council along with Coalition forces completed a road project that spans more than four kilometers and cost about \$565,000. Prior to the paving of the roadway, civilian traffic was severely restricted by the mud roads and the adjacent canal.



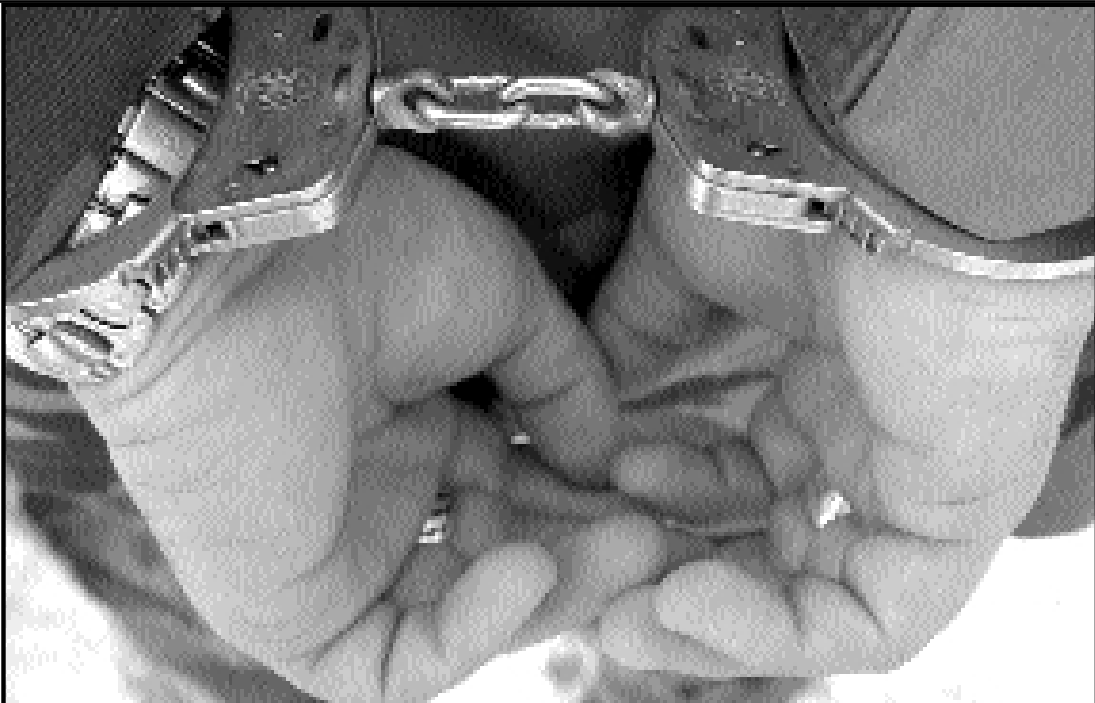
Two girls, who live on Hamourabi Road, watch Coalition forces as they drive by their house. Iraqi leaders from the Radwaniya Neighborhood Advisory Council along with Coalition forces completed a road project near their home.



One of the two water towers in Radwaniya will provide water for more than 7,000 residents. Hamourabi Road runs alongside the water tower and canal.

POLICE REPORTS

- **Subject:** Civilian, 28-year-old male.
- **Charges:** Unlawful speeding (52/30).
- **Location:** Hunter.
- **Subject:** Specialist , 24-year-old male, separate unit.
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana.
- **Location:** Savannah.
- **Subject:** Specialist, 34-year-old male, separate unit.
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, speeding (42/30).
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Specialist, 29-year-old female, separate unit.
- **Charge:** Wrongful interference with admin proceedings, alter/remove of public records.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Civilian, 41-year-old male.
- **Charges:** Improper left turn.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Family member , 29-year-old female.
- **Charge:** Improper backing, improper parking.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Civilian, 28-year-old male.
- **Charge:** No valid insurance.
- **Location:** Hunter.



- **Subject:** Sergeant , 23-year-old female, separate unit.
- **Charges:** Excessive speeding (80/55).
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Private, 20-year-old male, separate unit.
- **Charge:** Speeding (64/45), driving while license suspended.
- **Location:** Hinesville.

- **Subject:** Specialist, 21-year-old male, separate unit.
- **Charges:** Collision with unattended vehicle.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Sergeant, 27-year-old male, separate unit.
- **Charge:** Failure to use due care.
- **Location:** Hunter.
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old male, separate unit.
- **Charge:** Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, criminal mischief.
- **Location:** Port Charlotte.
- **Subject:** Civilian, 35-year-old female.
- **Charge:** Criminal trespass
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old male, separate unit.
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana.
- **Location:** Fort Stewart.
- **Subject:** Specialist, 24-year-old male, 1 BDE.
- **Charge:** Wrongful distribution of MDMA, use of a communication facility in commission of an act which constitutes a felony, conspiracy .
- **Location:** Savannah.